

What is claimed is:

1. A storage unit comprising:

a first and second horizontal shelf member;

5 at least one vertical panel disposed between said first and second horizontal shelf members, with a bottom of said at least one vertical panel supported by said first shelf member and said second shelf member supported on a top of said at least one vertical panel; and

10 at least one tie member extending between and connecting said first and second horizontal shelf members with said at least one panel clamped therebetween.

2. The invention of claim 1 wherein said at least one panel comprises a securing member engaging said tie member.

3. The invention of claim 1 wherein said at least one panel comprises a pair of side panels, and further comprising a back panel extending between said side panels.

4. The invention of claim 3 wherein said at least one tie member comprises at least a first and second tie member, wherein said first tie member engages one of said side panels and said back panel and said second tie member engages the other of said side panels and said back panel.

5. The invention of claim 4 wherein each of said side panels and said back panel comprise a securing member, wherein said first and second tie members are engaged by said side and back panels securing members.

6. The invention of claim 3 further comprising at least a third tie member engaging one of said side panels, and a front panel pivotally attached to said third tie member.

7. The invention of claim 1 wherein said shelf comprises a threaded insert, wherein said threaded insert threadably engages said tie member.

5       8. The invention of claim 7 further comprising a third shelf and at least one second vertical panel, wherein a bottom of said second panel is supported on said second shelf and said third shelf is supported on a top of said second panel, and at least a second tie member extending between and connecting said second and third shelf members with said at least one second panel clamped therebetween, wherein said tie member threadably engages said insert.

10      9. The invention of claim 6 wherein at least one of said, side front and back panels is made of a translucent material.

15      10. A storage unit kit having components capable of being assembled into a storage unit, the kit comprising:

          a plurality of shelf members;

          a plurality of side panels, at least two of which are adapted to be supported on one of said shelf members, with another of said shelf members supported on said at least two side panels;

          at least one back panel adapted to extend between said at least two side panels;

          a plurality of tie members adapted to extend between and connect at least two of said shelf members with said at least two side panels clamped therebetween; and

          at least one front panel adapted to be connected to at least one of said side panels.

25      11. The invention of claim 10 wherein said shelf members each comprises a plurality of threaded inserts adapted to be threadably engaged with at least one of said tie members.

12. The invention of claim 11 wherein said threaded inserts each comprise a threaded bore extending therethrough, wherein each of said inserts are adapted to be threadably engaged from opposite ends thereof.

5        13. The invention of claim 10 wherein each of said side panels, back panels and front panels comprise a securing member adapted to engage at least one of said tie members.

10        14. The invention of claim 13 wherein said securing members on said side panels and said back and front panels are arranged along a length thereof respectively such that they are staggered relative to each other with openings formed thereby in coaxial alignment when said storage unit is assembled.

15        15. A method for assembling a storage unit comprising:  
                  providing a first and second horizontal shelf member; at least one vertical panel having a bottom and a top; and at least one tie member;  
                  disposing said bottom of said panel on said first shelf member;  
                  disposing said second shelf member on said top of said panel;  
                  connecting said first and second shelf members with said tie member and clamping said panel therebetween.

20        16. The invention of claim 15 wherein said panel comprises a securing member, and wherein said connecting said first and second shelf members comprises engaging said tie member with said securing member.

17. The invention of claim 15 wherein said panel comprises a side panel, and further comprising providing a back panel and connecting said back panel to said side panel.

25        18. The invention of claim 17 wherein said side panel and said back panel each comprise a securing member, and wherein said connecting said first and second shelf members and connecting said back panel to said side